

# Headquarter and Headquarters Battery; Looking Back, Looking Ahead

**By Sgt. Isaias Clay**  
**HHB Supply NCO**

As the halfway mark appears in the rearview mirror, our journey begins to take a turn in our minds.

For some it has been a long time coming, but for most it has been moving right along. We begin to look back on the many “Team Hard Rock” triumphs and accomplishments.

A big accomplishment was the safe arrival into the Headquarters and Headquarters Battery footprint here at Camp Liberty. Thanks for all the prayers and support during that transition period.

Since arriving in theater, HHB has conducted the following promotions: one private second class, seven private first class, twelve specialist, four corporal, eight sergeant, one sergeant first class and one chief warrant officer 4.

These young men and women are some of the finest warriors in the Division. The Soldiers we mold today will be the leaders who guide our nation into the future. Most recently we promoted Pfc. Luis Garcia and Robert Shofner to specialist.

Your Hard Rock Soldiers have also been busy proving they can go the distance, literally! Led by 2nd Lt. Bryan French, they have proven to be contenders in the 5K to half marathon distance.

LT French has finished first and third in consecutive half- and full marathons. The team was made up of six members: Sgt. 1st Class James Walck, Staff Sgt. Lisa Walters, Spc. Larry Mellette, Spc. Timothy Peters of HHB, and Spc. Kenneth Cockes from 589th Brigade Support Battalion.

On May 20, the brigade set aside time to commemorate the heroes of the Bataan Death March. Their sacrifices were emulated by an early morning road march around “Z Lake” and back to the Brigade headquarters. More than 100 Fires Brigade Soldiers participated in order to demonstrate their respect. We must never forget the sacrifices that were made by our fallen comrades.

The HHB command group constructed a trophy case to proudly display the accomplishments of the Hard Rock Soldiers during Operation Iraqi Freedom 05-07.

Let’s not forget awards. Master Sgt. Rodney Byus, Sgt. 1st Class Cardell Drake and Capt. Thomas Brenton were awarded the Army Commendation Medal this month. While deployed, more than 20 Army Achievement Medals have been awarded, five Good Conduct Medals, and one Meritorious Service Medal.

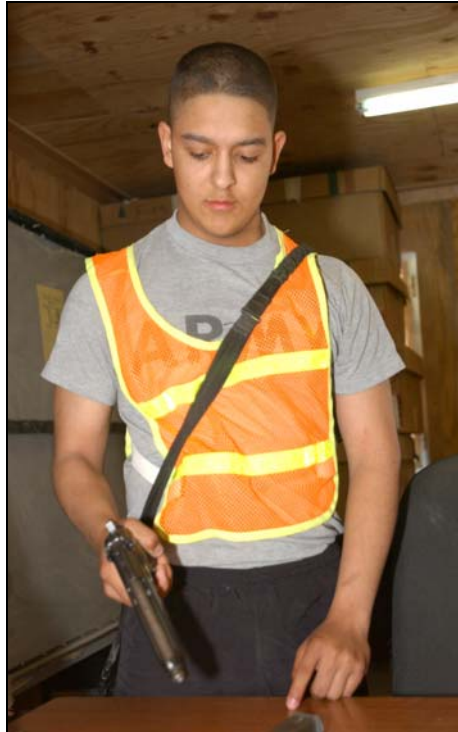
Speaking of awards, the Hard Work Award will have to go to the mechanics from 589th BSB. I don’t know about you, but it always seems to be a lot hotter in the motor pool than anywhere else. They are down there day after day ensuring that our vehicles are up and running.

I would be remiss if I did not highlight the outstanding work of my own section, the HHB supply. To date we have picked up, processed and distributed more than 6,800 parts and pieces of equipment needed throughout the Battery and Brigade Headquarters.

Although there are many heroes, we must highlight at least one.

This month it is Spc. Luis Garcia, who was promoted on June 3, 2006. This young professional is currently serving our nation as HHB's Armorer.

His most recent accomplishment was earning his rightful place among those who can be called the Fires Brigade Soldiers of the Month. This can only be accomplished by competing against the brightest and most dedicated of the Brigade's Soldiers. After being carefully evaluated by Sgt. Maj. Kevin Jones and his board members, the tough decision is finally made. Without going any further, I'll let him tell his own story.



*"My name is Luis Garcia. I joined the military July 7, 2004. I attended basic training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina.*

*Upon completion of Basic Training I went on to my Advanced Individual Training at Fort Lee, Virginia. I was awarded the military occupation specialty 92Y, unit supply specialist.*

*"I then went on to my first and current duty assignment, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, Fires Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, Fort Hood, Texas. While working as a supply clerk, I received a coin from the battery commander for receiving a commendable rating on the Forces Command supply room inspection.*

*"From there I was appointed assistant armorer. While working as the Assistant Armorer, I received a commendable rating on three inspections: brigade level, III Corps and FORSCOM.*

*"Just before we deployed, I was appointed primary armorer, a position where I am responsible for maintaining accountability and mission capability of arms, ammunition and explosives.*

*"I also ensure that our personal security detachment meets all of their SP times by swiftly issuing them their required equipment.*

*"On May 9 I received a coin from the brigade command sergeant major for a commendable rating on my arms room command inspection.*

*"My latest accomplishment was winning the May Soldier of the Month."*